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NSC BRIEFING

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

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WEST BERLIN

24 June 1959

I. Communist intimidation campaign against West German presidential election in West Berlin on 1 July gaining momentum.

A.

25X6

B. Such "voluntary" action would provide both GDR and Soviets with excuse to disclaim responsibility.

C. Soviet propaganda has declared that holding election in Berlin "gross and dangerous provocation."

II. Communist strategy appears to be to intimidate West German assembly members rather than physically to prevent election in Berlin.

A. However, deliberate slowdowns at checkpoints and other harassment cannot be ruled out.

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III. ~~\_\_\_\_\_ has said that if significant~~

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IV. Three cases of East German interference with American military personnel within last week also might influence 25X6

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A. East German police stopped Americans after latter processed through Soviet checkpoint and demanded to see travel documents.

1. In one incident when American officer demanded to see Soviet officials, East German policeman said East Germans, not Russians, control autobahn. East German police threatened to detain American "for week or longer," though he was subsequently allowed to proceed after 3 hour delay.

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